

## C. Parties to the 1949 Road Traffic Convention and the 1943 Inter-American Automotive Traffic Convention

A foreign visitor from one of the countries or territories listed here may legally drive on the roads of the Commonwealth on his or her own country's license (limited to a licensed driver who is at least 18 years old and limited to a vehicle of the type covered by the license) for up to 1 year from the date of arrival. The visitor may operate his or her own private passenger vehicle if displaying valid license plates from the visitor's country (and meeting insurance standards set by the Commonwealth if operated longer than 30 days) for up to 1 year from the date of arrival.

Except for those operated in Mexico and Canada, vehicles being operated in Massachusetts that are registered in any of the countries listed in Appendix C (including Germany and Switzerland) must also exhibit the **International Distinguishing Sign** on the outside rear of the vehicle. The sign is a white oval that is obtained from the country of registration and contains one to three black letters identifying the country.

A licensed driver from one of the countries listed here, or a Massachusetts licensed driver operating in one of the listed countries, should consider obtaining and carrying, in addition to his or her valid home country license, an International Driving Permit. Permits are available, for a fee, from various automobile associations. An international Driving Permit does *not* confer any driving privileges but is a translation into ten major languages of the relevant information contained on the driver's home country license.

**CAUTION:** The Registrar and law enforcement agencies know that individuals or organizations have sold fraudulent documents as "International Driver Licenses" or "International Driving Permits." The Registrar *does not* recognize as valid any document purporting to be an "International Driver License" or any other document that confers driving privileges *unless issued by the government agency that issues such licenses in the driver's country of residence and the driver is validly licensed.* A person operating a motor vehicle with a fraudulent Massachusetts license is subject to arrest pursuant to MGL c. 90, §24B, and MGL c. 90, §10.

*The Registrar reserves the right to amend this list at any time based on additional information received from the U.S. Department of State or other sources.*

Albania	Bulgaria	Denmark
Algeria	Cambodia	Dominican Republic*+
Argentina*+	Canada	Ecuador*+
Australia	Central African Republic	Egypt
Austria	Chile	El Salvador*
Bahamas, The	Colombia*	Fiji
Bangladesh	Congo	Finland
Barbados	Congo, Democratic Rep.	France (including French Overseas Territories)
Belgium	Costa Rica*	Gambia, The
Belize	Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	Georgia
Benin	Cuba	Ghana
Botswana	Cyprus	Greece
Brazil*	Czech Republic	

*Continued*

Grenada	Namibia	Swaziland
Guatemala*+	Netherlands (also applies to	Sweden
Guyana	Netherlands Antilles, and	Syrian Arab Republic
Haiti*+	Aruba)	Taiwan (Republic of China)
Honduras*	New Zealand	Tanzania
Hong Kong	Nicaragua*	Thailand
Hungary	Niger	Togo
Iceland	Norway	Trinidad and Tobago
India	Panama*	Tunisia
Ireland	Papua New Guinea	Turkey
Israel	Paraguay*+	Uganda
Italy	Peru*+	Union of Soviet Socialist
Ivory Coast (See Cote d'Ivoire)	Philippines	Republics
Jamaica	Poland	(USSR no longer exists.
Japan	Portugal (applies to all Por-	See individual republics)
Jordan	tuguese territories)	United Kingdom (Great
Korea	Romania	Britain and Northern Ire-
Kyrgyz Rep.	Russian Federation	land, applies to Cayman
Laos	Rwanda	Islands; Gibraltar; Baliwick,
Lebanon	St. Lucia	Guernsey; Isle of Man; and
Lesotho	St. Vincent and the Grena-	States of Jersey)
Luxembourg	dines	United States of America*+
Macao	San Marino	Uruguay*
Madagascar	Senegal	Vatican City
Malawi	Seychelles	Venezuela*
Malaysia	Sierra Leone	Vietnam, Rep.
Mali	Singapore	Western Samoa
Malta	Slovak Rep.	Zambia
Mauritius	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Mexico*	Spain (applies to African	
Monaco	localities and provinces)	
Morocco	Sri Lanka	
	Suriname	

From "A List of Treaties in Force and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force on January 1, 2002," Published by the Treaty Affairs Staff, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC). The countries or territories listed are either direct parties to one or both of the cited Conventions or the U.S. State Department considers them bound as beneficiaries by the signature of a former government.

**NOTE:** Until further notice, licenses from the following former republics of the USSR and countries of the Baltics should be honored:

Armenia	Moldova	Uzbekistan
Azerbaijan	Tajikistan	Latvia
Belarus	Turkmenistan	Lithuania
Kazakstan	Ukraine	Estonia

**NOTE: German and Swiss Drivers Granted Privileges.** The Registrar has determined that Germany and Switzerland enforce standards of fitness of operators 18 years old or over, substantially as high as those prescribed and enforced by this Commonwealth, and that they grant to properly licensed residents of this Commonwealth the privilege of operating a properly registered motor vehicle of a type that he or she is licensed to operate with his or her Massachusetts license. Therefore, pursuant to MGL c. 90, §10, the Registrar grants to residents of Germany and Switzerland who are 18 years old or over the privileges of operating in this Commonwealth, provided such nonresidents have complied fully with the laws of their home countries and have valid operator's licenses in their possession or in their vehicles in some easily accessible place.

\*= Party to 1943 Int.-Am. Conv., at Washington, DC

\*+= Party to 1943 Conv. and Party to 1949 Conv. at Geneva

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### ***Driving Privileges for NATO Forces:***

Massachusetts is legally required to honor the provisions of the

**Agreement Between The Parties To The North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of Forces**, ( NATO SOFA) entered into by the US on August 23, 1953. The Treaty accords driving privileges to active duty military members of NATO forces on assignment in this country (usually for training purposes) and also to civilian components attached to the NATO forces. Therefore, Massachusetts accepts as valid, without a driving test or fee, the driving permit, license or military driving permit issued by a NATO country to its own military personnel or to the personnel of a civilian component of the military force.

**NATO military and civilian component personnel are required to carry and present on demand:**

- (a) a personal identity card issued by the sending NATO country showing names, date of birth, rank and number (if any), service, and photograph.
- (b) an individual or collective movement order, in the language of the sending country and in the English and French languages, issued by an agency of the sending country or NATO and certifying to the status of the individual or group as a member or members of a force and to the movement ordered.

**Members of a civilian component and dependents shall be so described in their passports.** Dependents of military personnel of NATO force personnel on assignment in the U.S., and dependents of civilian employees assigned to those NATO forces, who are from one of the NATO member countries listed below, may legally drive on the roads of the Commonwealth, **on their home country license**, for up to one year from the date of arrival, under the Multilateral Road Traffic Convention of 1949 or applicable reciprocal agreements.

**List of NATO Member Countries:** Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.